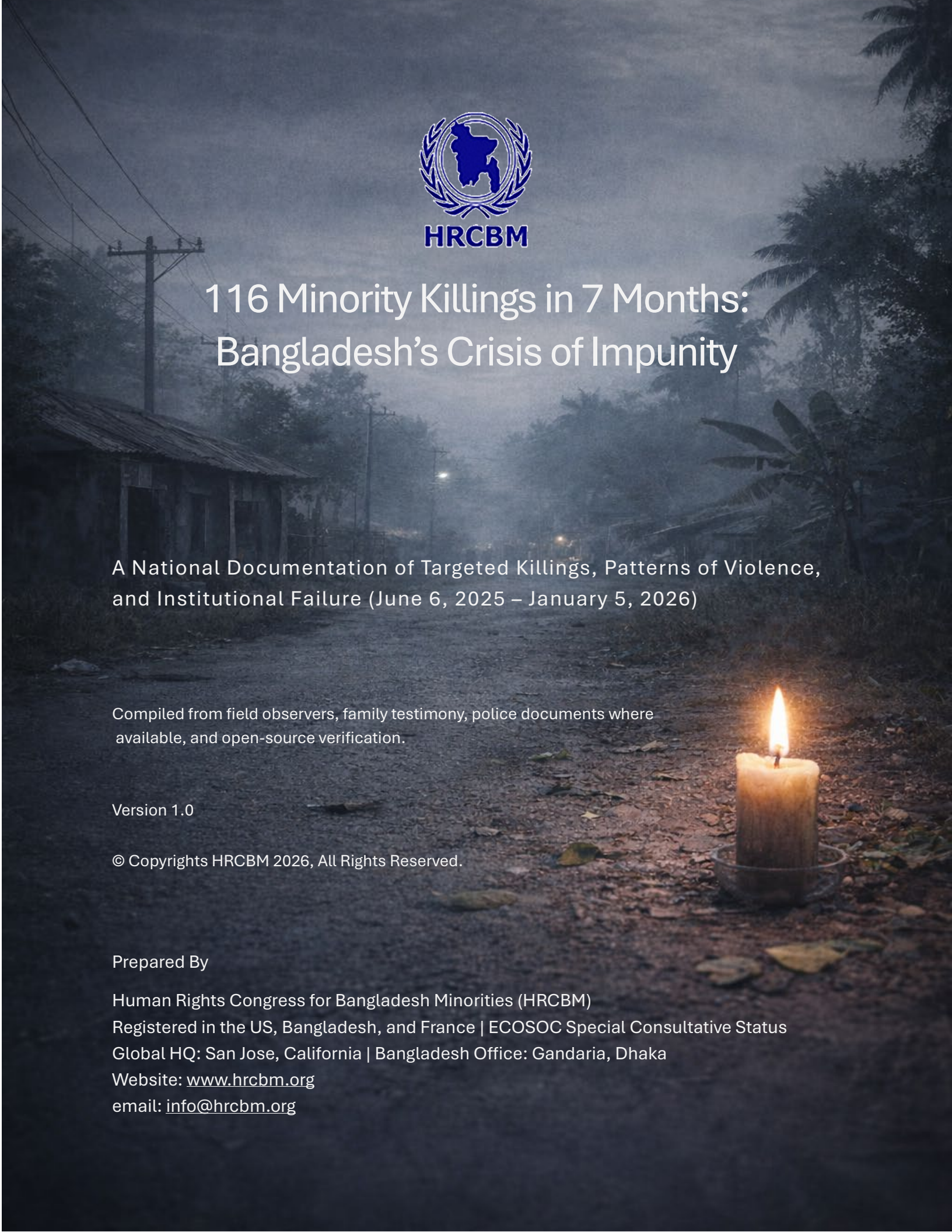

HRCBM

116 Minority Killings in 7 Months: Bangladesh's Crisis of Impunity

A National Documentation of Targeted Killings, Patterns of Violence, and Institutional Failure (June 6, 2025 – January 5, 2026)

Compiled from field observers, family testimony, police documents where available, and open-source verification.

Version 1.0

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Prepared By

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🛑 Content Advisory

This report contains photographic material and detailed accounts of violence and loss of life. Some images and descriptions may be distressing or unsuitable for certain audiences. These materials are presented solely for the purposes of documentation, accountability, and historical record, with full respect for the dignity of victims and their families.

1.0 Executive Summary

This report presents a comprehensive civil-society documentation of the recent escalation of lethal violence against minority communities in Bangladesh. Covering the period June 2025 to January 2026, it records 166 verified killings across all eight divisions and at least 45 districts of the country. Through systematic data collection, geographic analysis, case documentation, and legal assessment, the report seeks to illuminate the scale, patterns, and consequences of this violence, and to evaluate the performance of state institutions charged with protecting citizens and enforcing the rule of law.

The findings of this report are grounded in field investigations, direct verification with local police stations, victim and family testimony, media corroboration, and documentary records where available. Together, these sources provide a reliable evidentiary basis for assessing not only the killings themselves, but the broader environment of impunity and institutional failure in which they occur. While the report documents a discrete seven-month period, its conclusions must be understood within the deeper historical, social, and demographic processes that continue to shape the vulnerability of minority populations in Bangladesh.

> ***All numerical figures in this documentation represent verified minimums based on cases where identity, location, and incident circumstances could be independently corroborated. Due to fear, lack of police reporting, media suppression, and community intimidation, the actual number of incidents—particularly mob lynching and custodial deaths—is likely significantly higher than what is reflected here.***

1.1 Historical Context and Moral Imperative

For nearly eight decades, minority communities in Bangladesh have endured recurring cycles of violence, dispossession, and institutional abandonment. From the communal pogroms of 1946, through major episodes in 1950, 1964, 1971, and successive waves of persecution in 1989, 1990, 2001, 2004, 2012, 2015, 2021, 2024, and now 2025, the historical record reveals a tragic continuity: violence against minorities has not been episodic, but structural and reoccurring across generations.

Since 2006, the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) has pursued legal remedies through Bangladesh's courts, filing a sustained series of litigations seeking justice for killings, sexual violence, land dispossession, forced displacement, and communal attacks. Yet across successive governments, justice has remained elusive. Investigations routinely stall, prosecutions fail, and victims' families face intimidation and

neglect. The justice system has remained deeply compromised by political influence and selective enforcement, denying minorities effective protection under the rule of law.

Following the formation of the interim government led by Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the situation deteriorated sharply. The period under review witnessed relentless attacks against minority communities, with violence spreading across districts and divisions at alarming speed. This report documents only one dimension of that violence — the killing of minority citizens. It does not yet encompass the full spectrum of atrocities, including land grabbing, sexual violence, extortion, arson, destruction of temples, and systematic looting of minority-owned homes and businesses, which HRCBM will present through a forthcoming series of investigative reports.

Figure 1. Historical Timeline of Recurring Mass Atrocities Against Minority Communities in Bangladesh (1946–2025).

Note: This timeline presents major documented episodes of large-scale violence, persecution, and displacement affecting minority communities in the geographic territory of present-day Bangladesh from 1946 to 2025. The recurrence of mass atrocities across colonial, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi political periods demonstrates a persistent pattern of targeted violence spanning generations. When examined alongside contemporary killings and demographic decline, the timeline provides historical context for understanding current atrocities as part of a long-running process of structural persecution and enduring impunity.

When viewed alongside the historical timeline (Figure 1) and demographic evidence (Figure 2), the killings of 2025–2026 emerge not as isolated crimes, but as part of a continuing process of targeted destruction that bears the hallmarks of reoccurring genocidal crime.

1.2 Demographic Evidence of Structural Persecution

Demographic data spanning 1946 to 2020 reveals a stark and deeply troubling transformation. While the total population of the territory increased more than fourfold during this period, the proportion of minority communities — particularly Hindus and other non-Muslim populations — collapsed from approximately 30% in 1946 to less than 9% by 2020.

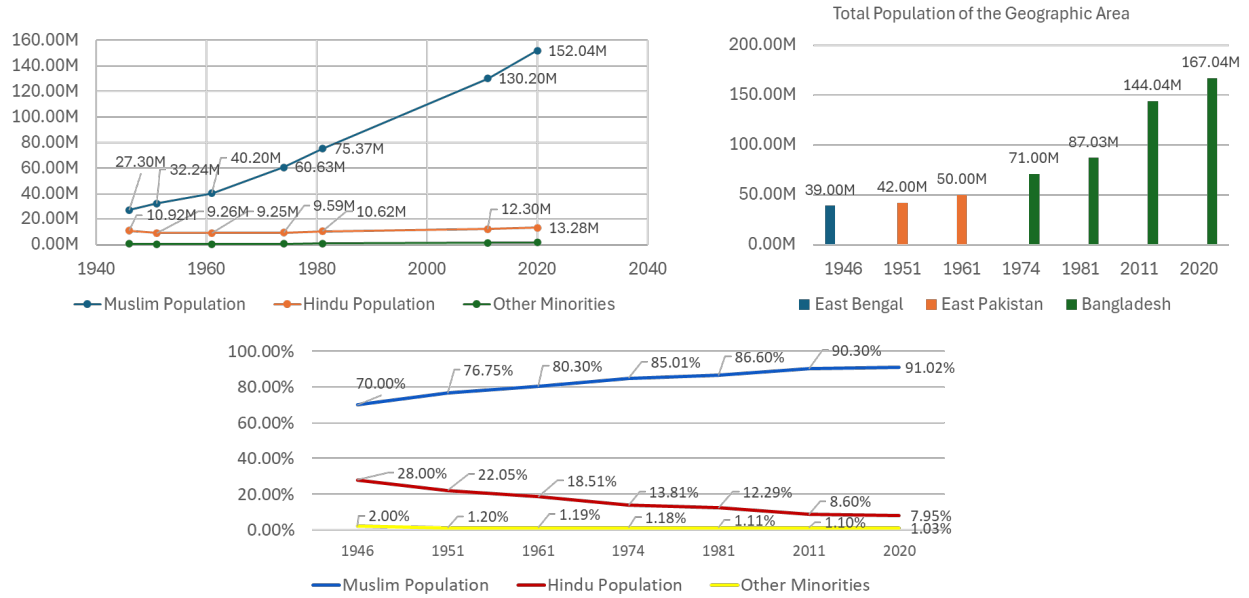

Figure 2. Demographic Transformation and Decline of Minority Populations in Bangladesh (1946–2020)

Note: This figure illustrates the long-term demographic transformation of the population in the geographic territory of present-day Bangladesh from 1946 to 2020. While the total population of the territory increased more than fourfold over this period, the proportion of minority communities—particularly Hindus and other non-Muslim populations—declined precipitously from approximately 28% to 30% in 1946 to less than 9% by 2020 (please refer to red and yellow line in bottom graph). The persistent contraction of minority populations, occurring alongside recurrent episodes of communal violence, forced displacement, and systemic impunity, suggests that these changes cannot be explained by natural demographic trends alone but reflect sustained patterns of targeted persecution and structural exclusion.

This decline cannot be explained by natural demographic variation alone. When examined alongside decades of communal violence, forced displacement, land dispossession, and persistent impunity, the demographic shift raises grave concerns of systematic ethnic cleansing through sustained coercion and insecurity. The killings documented in this report represent the lethal endpoint of a much broader process that has steadily eroded minority

presence across Bangladesh.

1.3 What Happened

Between June 6, 2025 and January 5, 2026, the Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) documented 116 killings of individuals belonging to minority communities across all eight divisions and at least 45 districts of Bangladesh.
These killings include mob lynchings, targeted murders, custodial and suspicious deaths, and killings following false allegations, occurring in both rural and urban settings. The incidents demonstrate a nationwide pattern of violence rather than isolated local disputes.

This report compiles verified case data, eyewitness accounts, open-source evidence, and field documentation to present the most comprehensive civil-society record to date of this escalation in lethal violence against minorities during the stated period.

1.4 Why It Matters

The scale, geographic spread, and recurring patterns of these killings reveal a systemic failure of protection and accountability.
Delayed or absent First Information Reports (FIRs), weak investigations, intimidation of victims' families, and limited or no prosecution of perpetrators have created a climate of near-total impunity. This environment not only enables continued violence but also erodes public trust in institutions, accelerates displacement, and deepens communal fear.

Unchecked, these dynamics pose serious risks to national stability, social cohesion, and fundamental human rights obligations under both Bangladeshi law and international conventions.

1.5 What Is New in This Report

This report presents the most comprehensive civil-society documentation to date of minority killings in Bangladesh within a defined, recent time frame. It introduces a manually curated, verified incident registry covering the seven-month period under review, constructed through field investigations, direct verification with local police stations, family testimony, and cross-referenced reporting.

The report includes:

- A national incident registry of all documented killings during the reporting period

- Geospatial mapping and descriptive statistical analysis identifying geographic concentrations, district-level distributions, and emerging trends
- A structured typology of violence, categorizing dominant patterns, triggers, and incident characteristics
- Impunity indicators derived from police and judicial response behavior, including FIR delays, arrest outcomes, and case stagnation
- Representative case studies illustrating recurring institutional failures and systemic weaknesses
- A detailed casebook annex documenting each victim, incident profile, and verification level

Together, these elements transform individual tragedies into a coherent, evidence-based national assessment of escalating violence and institutional breakdown, providing a foundation for legal, policy, and international review.

1.6 What We Can Prove vs. What We Allege

What we can prove: Each killing documented in this report is supported by structured and cross-verified evidence, including field observer reports, direct verification with local police stations, victim and family testimony, corroborated media coverage, and police or hospital records where available. All cases were reviewed using multiple independent sources, and confidence tiers are assigned to each entry to ensure transparency, consistency, and methodological rigor.

What we allege: Based on the compiled evidence, HRCBM identifies persistent and systemic patterns of delayed investigations, reluctance or failure to register First Information Reports (FIRs), limited prosecutorial action, and recurring characteristics of targeted violence against minority individuals.

Under the Bangladesh Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (CrPC), the police have clear statutory obligations in cases of serious violence:

- Section 154 of the CrPC requires that when information is received about a *cognizable offence* — including murder — the officer-in-charge of a police station shall reduce it to writing and register it forthwith as an FIR.
- Section 156(1) authorizes police to investigate cognizable offences without an order from a Magistrate and initiates investigation once FIR is recorded.
- Section 157 mandates that when a police officer has reason to suspect a cognizable offence, they shall proceed to investigate the matter forthwith and report to the Magistrate.

In several documented cases, police were reportedly reluctant to register FIRs or to initiate investigation promptly, at times citing the absence of post-mortem reports even after

substantial delays, and in some instances advising that families themselves should file complaints. Such practices, if substantiated, would be inconsistent with the police's statutory duties under the CrPC to record information of cognizable offences and to act expeditiously in initiating investigation. These actions (or inactions) reflect institutional negligence and a failure to uphold the rule of law in response to brutal killings of minority citizens.

Taken together, these patterns support HRCBM's allegation that the state has failed to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, and punish foreseeable violence against minority communities, thereby enabling an environment of sustained impunity. These findings are grounded in documented evidence but are presented as allegations for legal and institutional review.

1.7 Human Impact

Behind each statistic lies a devastated family. Parents have lost children, children have become orphans, and in a great many cases the individual killed was the sole income earner of the household, plunging entire families into immediate economic ruin. Overnight, families are stripped not only of loved ones, but of their means of survival — food security, housing stability, education for children, and basic medical care.

Widows and elderly parents are left without support, often dependent on charity or forced into displacement. Survivors frequently face intimidation for seeking justice, compounding their trauma and isolation. Entire communities now live in fear, with many abandoning ancestral homes after the murder of neighbors or the spread of credible threats of further violence.

The cumulative effect is widespread psychological trauma, collapse of household economies, forced displacement, and generational insecurity, producing conditions in which survival itself becomes uncertain for already vulnerable populations. This report documents not only deaths, but the slow and systematic destruction of family life, social stability, and human dignity for some of Bangladesh's most marginalized citizens.

2. Key Findings

This section synthesizes the principal findings derived from the verified incident registry, geospatial aggregation, and descriptive statistical analysis presented in this report. The evidence reveals a nationwide pattern of targeted violence against minority communities, sustained by persistent institutional failure.

2.1 Geographic Spread and Concentration

- **Nationwide scope:** Killings were documented in **all eight divisions of Bangladesh**, establishing that the violence is not localized but **national in scale**.
- **District-level hotspots:** A significant concentration of killings occurred repeatedly in specific districts, demonstrating entrenched risk zones rather than random incidents.

Figure 3. District-Level Distribution of Verified Minority Killings (June 6, 2025 – January 5, 2026)

- **Urban and rural reach:** Incidents span metropolitan areas, municipalities, and rural unions, showing that minority communities face lethal risk regardless of location.

- **Cross-divisional patterning:** Similar typologies and response failures appear across divisions, undermining claims of isolated local unrest.

Table 1. Division-Level Distribution and Demographic Profile of Verified Minority Killings (June6, 2025 – January 5, 2026)

116

minority deaths under violent and suspicious circumstances across all 8 divisions and 45 districts of Bangladesh

June 6, 2025 – January 5, 2026

Division	Count	Gender	Religion	Ethnicity
Barisal	8	2 Female, 6 Male	7 Hindu, 1 Chrisitan	Bengali
Chittagong	35	1 Female, 34 Male	26 Hindu, 9 Buddhist	26 Bengali, 9 Indigenous
Dhaka	25	3 Female (1 Girl), 22 Male (1 Boy)	Hindu	Bengali
Khulna	12	1 Female, 11 Male	Hindu	Bengali
Mymensingh	5	Male	Hindu	Bengali
Rajshahi	13	4 Female, 9 Male	12 Hindu, 1 Christian	12 Bengali, 1 Indigenous
Rangpur	11	1 Female, 10 Male	Hindu	Bengali
Sylhet	7	Male	Hindu	6 Bengali, 1 Indigenous

Note: This table summarizes the verified killings of minority individuals by administrative divisions of Bangladesh, disaggregated by gender, religious affiliation, and ethnicity. The distribution demonstrates both the nationwide scope of violence and its disproportionate impact on specific minority communities, reinforcing the conclusion that these killings are systemic rather than isolated events.

2.2 Incident Typologies

Analysis of the verified incident registry reveals that the killings of minority individuals during the reporting period follow distinct and recurring patterns of violence, rather than random or isolated criminal acts. These patterns fall into the following principal typological categories:

- **Targeted murders:** These constitute the largest category of killings. Victims were deliberately selected and attacked following identifiable processes of threats, harassment, intimidation, false accusations, personal betrayal, or sustained communal pressure. Such killings frequently occurred in victims' homes, workplaces, or while traveling, demonstrating premeditation and individualized intent. Methods included stabbing, beating, forced poisoning, shooting, and other forms of direct lethal assault.
- **Mob Lynchings:** In numerous cases, victims were killed by organized or spontaneous crowds, often incited by fabricated allegations of theft, blasphemy, or perceived moral transgressions. These killings unfolded publicly and violently, frequently in the presence of large numbers of onlookers.
  The scale and brutality of these incidents, coupled with delayed or absent law-enforcement intervention, indicate that mob violence has become a normalized mechanism of punishment and terror against minority communities.
- **Custodial and Suspicious Deaths:** This category includes deaths that occurred in police custody, during detention, or under circumstances that strongly suggest coercion, abuse, or investigative negligence. It also includes deaths classified as "mysterious" or "unexplained," where official records are incomplete, post-mortem examinations are delayed or absent, and families raise credible concerns of foul play. Several such cases exhibit characteristics inconsistent with natural death or suicide, pointing to serious failures in custodial protection and accountability.
- **Army / State Security Lethal Force:** A distinct category of killings involves the use of lethal force by military or state security personnel during periods of civil unrest and communal conflict. In the reporting period, HRCBM documented incidents where families and local witnesses allege that security forces opened fire on civilians and bystanders, including minority individuals, resulting in fatalities. Notably, in Gopalganj (16 July 2025), HRCBM reports that multiple civilians were fatally shot during violence surrounding a political rally, with families and eyewitnesses alleging firing and mistreatment by army and police units. In Khagrachari–Guimara (28 September 2025), HRCBM documented coordinated attacks on Indigenous communities resulting in at least five confirmed deaths, alongside widespread arson and displacement, raising serious concerns regarding the conduct and accountability of state security actors. Deaths in this typology represent potential grave violations of the right to life and warrant independent, transparent investigation with full disclosure of operational orders, firearms discharge records, and accountability processes.

- **Attack-Related Deaths:** These fatalities occurred in the context of broader coordinated attacks, including communal assaults, arson campaigns, destruction of homes and religious institutions, and mass intimidation operations. Victims were killed during or immediately following these assaults, which were often designed to terrorize communities, force displacement, and seize property.

Table 2. Distribution of Minority Killings by Incident Typology (Fatalities, June 2025 – January 2026).

Typology	**Number of Cases**	**Percentage (approx.)**	**Notes**
Targeted Murder	56	48.3%	Individual killings with identifiable targeting context
Mob Lynching	5[1]	4.3%	Crowd-based killings (lynching)
Suspicious / Unexplained Death	27	23.3%	Pending investigation or unclear causes
Custodial / Police Force Death	3[2]	2.6%	Documented in custody or police-linked deaths
Army / State Security Lethal Force	10	8.6%	Confirmed Army/security force shootings in Khagrachari and Gopalganj
Attack-Related Death	15	12.9%	Fatalities during coordinated attack contexts
Total	**116**	**100%**	

Note: This table presents the distribution of verified minority killings by dominant incident typology.

[1] Multiple Bangladeshi human rights monitors reported a high national death toll from mob violence and lynching in 2025, ranging from 166 to 197 deaths depending on definitions and verification thresholds; however, it remains undetermined how many of these victims belonged to religious or ethnic minority communities, as such disaggregation is not consistently available in national reporting. Consequently, the number of minority victims is likely to be significantly higher than what is reflected in the cases documented here.

[2] *Custodial / Police-linked deaths are likely undercounted due to under-reporting and limited access to official detention records. HRCBM's registry reflects only cases meeting our verification threshold at time of publication. Independent monitoring by Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) reported at least 107 deaths in custody in Bangladesh in 2025 (all demographics), indicating broader systemic risk that may also affect minority detainees.*

Percentages are calculated on the basis of total confirmed fatalities (N = 116). Several incidents involved multiple deaths within a single event; therefore, fatality counts exceed the number of recorded incident entries in the registry.

Analytical Conclusion: The typological distribution of killings demonstrates that violence against minority communities during the reporting period is neither accidental nor sporadic, but **structural, patterned, and systematically enabled**. The predominance of targeted murders and mob lynchings, combined with the presence of custodial deaths and direct state-linked lethal force, reveals a multi-layered threat environment in which minority lives are exposed to danger from private actors, collective violence, and institutional failures simultaneously.

These typologies, taken together, reflect not merely criminal breakdown, but the erosion of protective institutions and the normalization of impunity. They underscore the urgent necessity for independent investigations, structural reforms in law enforcement, and sustained international oversight to prevent further escalation and loss of life.

3. Methodology and Verification Standard

This report was produced using a structured human-rights documentation methodology designed to ensure **accuracy, transparency, and evidentiary reliability**. Given the high-risk environment in which many incidents occurred, particular care was taken to corroborate information through multiple independent sources and to apply consistent verification standards across all recorded cases.

3.1 Data Sources

Information contained in this report was compiled from the following primary and secondary sources:

- **HRCBM Field Observers and Local Coordinators**, operating across districts and divisions
- **Direct testimony from victims' families and community members**
- **Hospital and medical records**, including post-incident treatment notes where accessible
- **Police documentation**, including General Diary entries, FIR references, and station-level confirmations
- **Corroborated media reporting** from national and local outlets

Each case entry was evaluated using a minimum of two independent sources wherever possible.

3.2 Inclusion Criteria: What Qualifies as a "Killing"

An incident was included in the registry if it satisfied at least one of the following conditions:

- The victim died as a result of intentional violence, including murder, lynching, or targeted attack
- The death occurred during or immediately following a coordinated communal assault
- The death occurred in police custody or under circumstances strongly suggesting coercion, abuse, or negligence
- The death resulted from lethal force by state security personnel
- The circumstances of death were officially classified as suspicious or unexplained, with credible indications of foul play

Natural deaths and unverified rumors were excluded.

3.3 Duplicate Elimination and Data Integrity

To ensure the integrity of the dataset:

- All case entries were cross-checked by name, date, location, and incident description
- Apparent duplicates arising from multiple reports of the same event were consolidated into a single verified record
- Where a single incident resulted in multiple fatalities, the registry recorded one incident entry with multiple fatalities accounted for in statistical tables
- Ongoing updates and corrections are tracked through formal version control (v1.0, v1.0.1, etc.)

3.4 Confidence Levels and Verification Tiers

Each case was assigned a confidence tier based on the strength of available evidence:

- **Tier A (High Confidence):** Supported by official police or hospital documentation **and/or** at least two independent corroborating sources.
- **Tier B (Medium Confidence):** Supported by corroborated eyewitness testimony combined with local verification by HRCBM field observers.
- **Tier C (Preliminary Confidence):** Based on credible initial reports where full verification remains pending due to access limitations, security risks, or lack of institutional cooperation.

Cases are periodically reviewed and may be upgraded as additional documentation becomes available.

3.5 Ethical Safeguards

HRCBM applied strict ethical standards throughout the documentation process:

- Protection of victim dignity in language, imagery, and representation
- Redaction of sensitive personal details where disclosure could endanger survivors or witnesses
- Informed consent obtained prior to publishing family testimony or identifying information
- Do-no-harm principle guiding all investigative and publication decisions

These safeguards ensure that the pursuit of accountability does not expose victims or their families to further harm.

4.0 Statistical Analysis

This section presents descriptive statistical analysis of verified minority killings during the reporting period. Time-series figures reflect the number of documented incident entries recorded in the incident registry, while geographic and demographic figures reflect verified fatality counts aggregated at district and division levels. Where demographic attributes (age, gender, religion, ethnicity) are incomplete or unavailable, the report indicates limitations explicitly and avoids over-interpretation.

4.1 Monthly Trend of Documented Killing Incidents

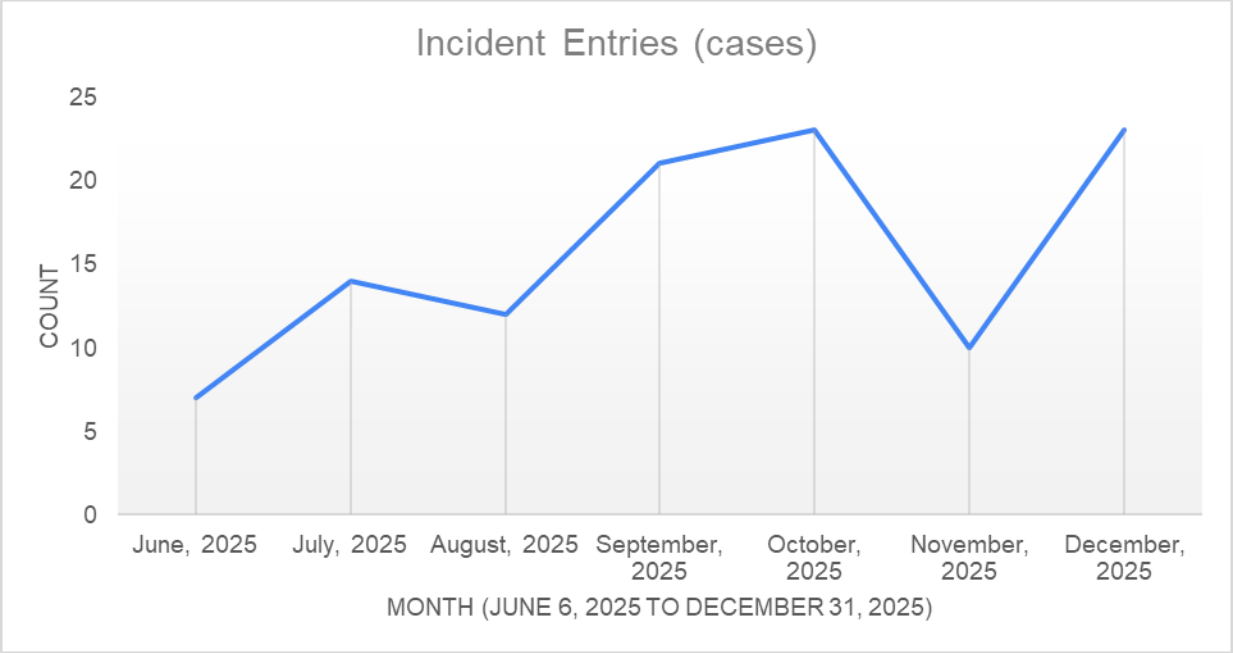

Figure 4. Monthly Trend of Documented Killing Incidents (June 6, 2025 – December 2025)

Figure 4.1 illustrates the monthly progression of documented killing incidents affecting minority communities between June and December 2025. The data reveal a clear pattern of escalating violence through the second half of the year, followed by brief fluctuation but no sustained de-escalation. The reporting period begins in June 6, 2025 with 7 recorded incidents, rising sharply in July (14 incidents). Although August shows a modest decline (12 incidents), the trend reverses decisively in September, when incidents surge to 21, followed by the highest recorded level in October (23 incidents). This peak coincides with multiple major outbreaks of violence, including coordinated attacks and incidents involving state security forces.

A notable dip occurs in November (10 incidents), which may reflect temporary reporting disruptions or localized security measures rather than a structural reduction in violence. The pattern of escalation resumes in December, with incidents returning to 23, matching the October peak. To keep the graph simple counts from 1st January 2026 to January 5, 2026 are excluded.

Overall, the trend demonstrates that violence against minority communities during the reporting period was not episodic, but persistent and intensifying, with repeated surges and no evidence of long-term stabilization. The sustained high level of incidents across consecutive months indicates a deteriorating security environment and a growing normalization of lethal violence against vulnerable populations.

4.2 District Hotspots

An examination of district-level data reveals that lethal violence against minority communities is not randomly distributed across Bangladesh, but instead exhibits strong geographic concentration. A limited number of districts account for a disproportionate share of fatalities, indicating the emergence of persistent violence hotspots where institutional protection has repeatedly failed.

Table 3. District-Level Distribution of Minority Killings (June 6, 2025–January 5, 2026)

District	Divison	Count
Bagerhat	Khulna	2
Bandarban	Chittagong	3
Barisal	Barisal	3
Bogura	Rajshahi	4
Brahmanbaria	Chittagong	1
Chandpur	Chittagong	3
Chapainawabganj	Rajshahi	3
Chittagong	Chittagong	11
Comilla	Chittagong	2
Cox's Bazar	Chittagong	3
Dhaka	Dhaka	5
Dinajpur	Rangpur	2
Faridpur	Dhaka	1
Feni	Chittagong	2
Gazipur	Dhaka	2
Gopalganj	Dhaka	5
Habiganj	Sylhet	2
Jessore	Khulna	1
Jhalokathi	Barisal	1
Jhenaidah	Khulna	1
Khagrachhari	Chittagong	6
Khulna	Khulna	4
Kishoreganj	Dhaka	1
Kurigram	Rangpur	1
Lakshmipur	Chittagong	1
Madaripur	Dhaka	2
Magura	Khulna	1
Moulvibazar	Sylhet	3
Munshiganj	Dhaka	1
Mymensingh	Mymensingh	2

Naogaon	Rajshahi	1
Narayanganj	Dhaka	2
Narsingdi	Dhaka	4
Natore	Rajshahi	2
Netrokona	Mymensingh	3
Noakhali	Chittagong	3
Patuakhali	Barisal	2
Pirojpur	Barisal	2
Rajbari	Khulna	1
Rangpur	Rangpur	4
Satkhira	Khulna	2
Savar	Dhaka	1
Shariatpur	Dhaka	1
Sirajganj	Rajshahi	3
Sylhet	Sylhet	2
Thakurgaon	Rangpur	4

4.3 Demographic

Beyond the geographic and temporal distribution of violence, the demographic characteristics of the victims reveal the profound social impact of these killings. The data demonstrate that lethal violence is not confined to any single age group, profession, or family structure; rather, it cuts across generations and economic roles, inflicting cascading harm on households and communities. The demographic patterns documented in this section illustrate not only who is being killed, but also **what is being destroyed** — livelihoods, family stability, intergenerational security, and the social fabric of minority communities.

4.3.1 Gender Distribution

The gender distribution reveals that the vast majority of victims are men, reflecting both their exposure as primary income earners and their heightened vulnerability in targeted and communal violence. The killing of women, girls, and at least one boy underscores the indiscriminate and family-destroying nature of the violence, extending its impact far beyond individual victims.

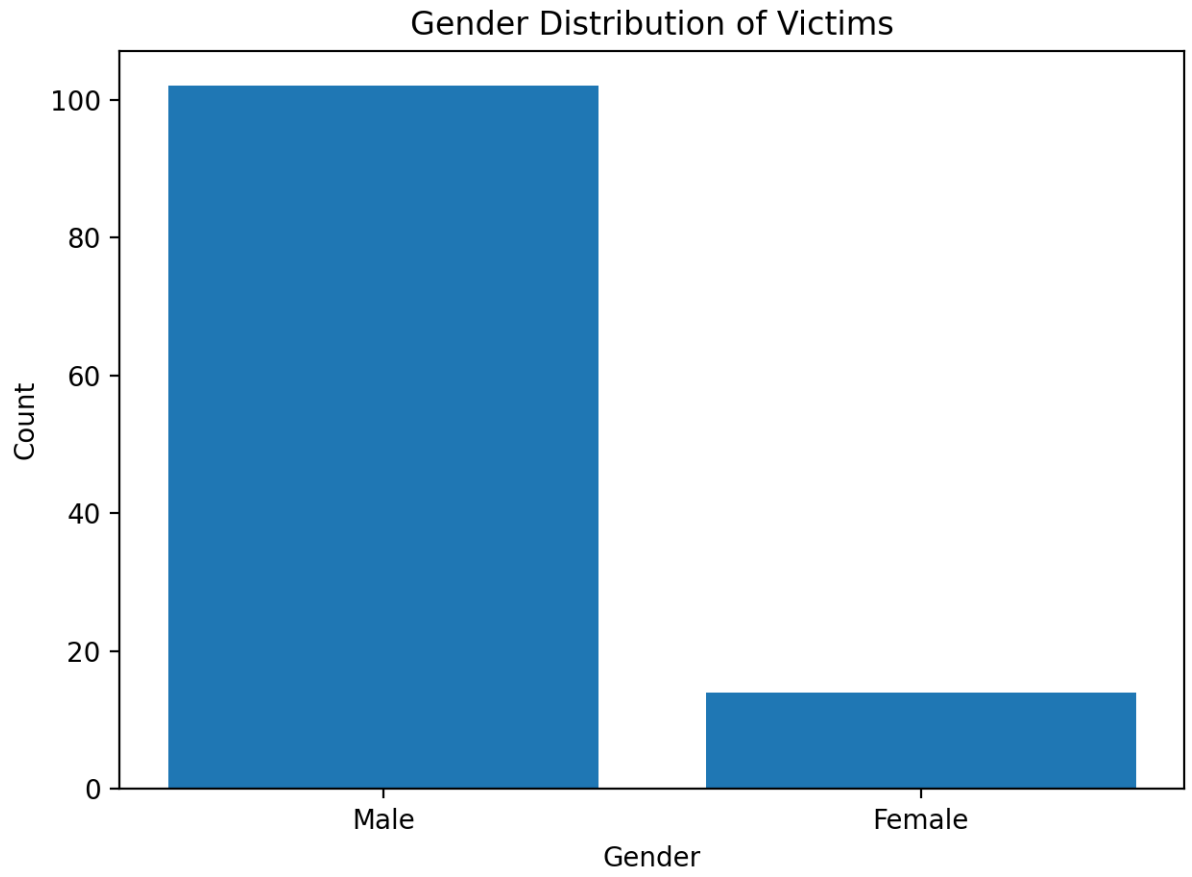

Figure 5. Gender Distribution of Minority Victims.

4.3.2 Age Distribution of Victims

The age profile of victims demonstrates that lethal violence disproportionately affects youth and working-age adults, the core economic and social backbone of families and communities. The presence of children and elderly victims further illustrates the indiscriminate nature of the violence and its capacity to destabilize households across generations.

Label in Report	**Age**
Children	0–17
Youth	18–25
Young Adults	26–35
Adults	36–45
Middle-aged Adults	46–60
Elderly	61+

4.4 Impunity Metrics and Institutional Response

Analysis of the documented cases reveals persistent and systemic failures in the criminal-justice response to killings of minority citizens. While complete quantitative indicators (e.g., precise FIR delay intervals, arrest rates, prosecution outcomes) are not yet uniformly available across all cases due to access constraints and inconsistent institutional disclosure, the qualitative patterns of impunity are both clear and deeply concerning.

These findings are derived from HRCBM field investigations, direct communication with families, local police verification efforts, and review of case-specific documentation where available.

4.4.1 Core Impunity Patterns Observed

Across the case registry, HRCBM consistently documented the following institutional behaviors:

- **Reluctance or refusal to register FIRs:** In multiple cases, families reported that police declined to register First Information Reports promptly, sometimes citing the absence of post-mortem reports even months after the killing. In several instances, officers advised families to file complaints themselves rather than initiating proceedings ex officio in homicide cases.
- **Delayed or stalled investigations:** Even where FIRs were eventually recorded, investigations frequently remained inactive for extended periods, with no visible evidence of case progression.
- **Minimal or no arrests:** In a substantial portion of cases, no suspects were detained despite named perpetrators, eyewitness accounts, or community identification.
- **Witness and family intimidation:** Families and witnesses reported harassment, threats, and pressure not to pursue legal action, significantly undermining access to justice.
- **Forced or coerced "compromise":** In some localities, informal settlements were promoted in lieu of criminal prosecution, effectively extinguishing accountability.

These patterns were not isolated anomalies but recurring institutional behaviors observed across multiple districts and divisions.

4.4.2 Legal Context and Due-Diligence Failure

Under Bangladesh's Code of Criminal Procedure (1898), police are obligated to record information regarding cognizable offences, initiate investigation without undue delay, and pursue prosecution where evidence exists. The recurring failure to fulfill these duties in

homicide cases involving minority victims reflects a systemic breach of the state's due-diligence obligations and contributes directly to the perpetuation of violence.

4.4.3 Implications

The persistence of these impunity patterns creates an enabling environment for further violence. When perpetrators observe that killings are met with procedural inertia, non-registration of cases, and social intimidation of victims' families, lethal violence becomes normalized and repeatable. This institutional breakdown is not merely administrative; it constitutes a structural driver of ongoing atrocities.

5.0 Pattern Narratives: How the Violence Unfolds

While earlier sections present the scale and distribution of killings, this section explains how the violence unfolds in practice. Drawing on verified case records, family testimony, police interactions, and field observations, the following narratives illustrate the recurring mechanisms through which minority individuals are targeted, attacked, and denied justice. These are not isolated tragedies; they are repeating patterns that together form a national picture of systematic vulnerability.

5.1 Mob Lynching and Rumor-Driven Killings

A recurring and deeply disturbing pattern across the reporting period is the use of mob violence triggered by rumors, false accusations, and moral panic. These killings are not spontaneous outbursts of crime; they follow a recognizable social process in which a victim is first branded a "criminal" — often as a thief, blasphemer, or moral offender — and then subjected to collective violence that rapidly escalates into fatal assault.

Table 4. presents selected representative cases of mob lynching and allegation-driven killings, referenced by HRCBM Case Reference (SL) for traceability to the master registry.

HRCBM Case Ref (SL)	Date	District	Victim	Triggering Allegation	Summary
20	9 Aug 2025	Rangpur	Ruplal Das (40)	Theft (alleged)	Beaten to death by mob following false theft accusation
21	9 Aug 2025	Rangpur	Pradip Das (35)	Theft (alleged)	Killed in same incident as SL 20; both victims are related.

22	10 Aug 2025	Lakshmipur	Sanjay De (45)	Communal retaliation	Death linked to same wave of violence
26	28 Aug 2025	Dhaka	Bimal Rajbanshi (45)	Mob-style assault (group attack)	
104	19 Dec 2025	Mymensingh	Dipu Chandra Das (30)	Lynching and Burning	Blasphemy allegation
108	25 Dec 2025	Rajbari	Amrit Mondal (Samrat)	public beating/lynching	Mob lynched him alleging that Samrat is an extortionist.

One early and emblematic example in the dataset occurred on 9 August 2025 in Taraganj, Rangpur, when two Hindu men, Ruplal Das and his brother-in-law Pradip Das**,** were attacked by a group of youths after being falsely accused of theft while returning home at night. According to their families, the assault was premeditated and deliberate**,** resulting in Ruplal Das dying at the scene and Pradip Das later succumbing to his injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital**.** Despite the public nature of the attack, the presence of multiple witnesses, and the severity of the violence, timely and effective law-enforcement intervention failed to materialize, reinforcing a perception that mob punishment against minority victims was being tacitly tolerated.

Figure 6. Ruplal Das (HRCBM SL 20), Rangpur — 9 August 2025.

Note: Video still captured during the mob assault on Ruplal Das (40) in Taraganj, Rangpur, as he was returning home at night. He was falsely accused of theft and beaten by a crowd; he later died from his injuries.

Figure 7. Video Screen Capture Documenting the Mob Lynching of Ruplal Das and Pradip Das in Taraganj, Rangpur (9 August 2025).

Similar dynamics appear in multiple subsequent cases. In several districts, victims were seized by crowds following allegations of theft, subjected to prolonged beatings in open

spaces, and left fatally injured before any effective intervention occurred. In these incidents, the collective participation of bystanders, the visibility of the violence, and the delay or absence of immediate police action transformed rumor into lethal enforcement.

The lynching of Dipu Chandra Das stands as one of the most emblematic cases of this pattern. Dipu was brutally attacked by a mob after being accused of theft, despite the absence of credible evidence. Witnesses reported that he was beaten in public for an extended period, while onlookers recorded the assault and no effective protection was provided. He later succumbed to his injuries. The case generated national outrage and remains a stark illustration of how unverified accusations, communal hostility, and institutional paralysis converge to produce fatal outcomes.

Figure 9. Aftermath of the Blasphemy-Triggered Mob Killing of Dipu Chandra Das — Mymensingh (18 December 2025).

Note: mages document the lynching of Dipu Chandra Das (30) following a blasphemy allegation and the subsequent handling of his body. Family members and eyewitnesses report that the accusation precipitated the mob assault that led to his death.

Figure 10. Amrit Mondol (Samrat), Victim of Mob Lynching — Pangsha, Rajbari.

Note: Amrit Mondol (known as Samrat), a Hindu youth from Hosendanga village, Pangsha, Rajbari District, who was later beaten to death by a mob after being falsely labeled an "extortionist."

Across these incidents, the function of rumor is central: it provides the moral pretext for violence, removes social protection from the victim, and converts private grievance into public execution. In the absence of swift and decisive state intervention, mob lynching becomes an informal system of punishment and terror, disproportionately weaponized against minority communities.

5.2 Custodial, Police-Linked, and Suspicious Deaths

A second recurring pattern in the registry concerns deaths occurring in custodial settings or under highly suspicious circumstances where families raise credible concerns and where

institutional processes—medical examination, documentation, and investigation—appear delayed, incomplete, or non-transparent. These incidents are especially serious because they implicate the state's heightened duty of care when a person is detained, and because unexplained deaths, if not rigorously investigated, become a structural accelerator of impunity.

One of the most prominent examples is the death of Durjoy Chowdhury (27) (HRCBM SL 24) in Chakaria, Cox's Bazar, whose body was recovered from police lockup in a hanging position. The case drew immediate concern because the circumstances raised doubts and demanded clear disclosure of custodial logs, duty rosters, surveillance footage (if available), medical records, and an independent forensic review. In addition to explicit custodial settings, the registry also documents multiple cases categorized as "suspicious/unexplained deaths," where bodies were recovered following reports to police or where causes of death remained officially "pending" due to delayed or absent post-mortem confirmation. Such cases create a recurring accountability gap: without timely, transparent forensic reporting and case progression, families are left with no path to truth, and perpetrators—where any exist—face little risk of prosecution.

These cases, taken together, illustrate a broader institutional breakdown: death occurs; documentation is partial; investigation stalls; and community fear deepens, particularly among vulnerable minority populations.

Table 5. Confirmed custodial/lockup death (from registry)

HRCBM Case Ref (SL)	Date	District	Victim	Category	Why It Illustrates the Pattern
24	22 Aug 2025	Cox's Bazar	Durjoy Chowdhury (27)	Custodial / police lockup death	Body recovered from police lockup in a hanging position; circumstances require full custodial transparency and independent review

Figure 11. Durjoy Chowdhury (27) — Chakaria, Cox's Bazar

Note: Durjoy Chowdhury, a young minority man from Chakaria, Cox's Bazar, photographed prior to his detention. He later died in police lockup on 22 August 2025 (HRCBM Case Ref: SL 24).
Editorial Note: mage published with due regard for victim dignity and for the purposes of documentation and accountability.

While the HRCBM dataset currently identifies **one confirmed custodial death** within our documented case registry, it is important to emphasise that this count **is not exhaustive**. HRCBM's documentation reflects cases that have been verified through multiple independent sources and meet our internal classification criteria; however, due to under-reporting, limited access to official records, and systemic gaps in police transparency, **additional custodial deaths affecting minorities may exist but remain undetected within the current dataset**.

This concern is reinforced by independent monitoring data from Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), which reported that **at least 107 people died in custody in Bangladesh in 2025**, including 69 undertrial detainees and 38 convicted prisoners. These figures—spanning all demographics—underscore broader systemic issues in custodial care, detention conditions, and investigative oversight that heighten the risk of custodial deaths, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised populations.

Taken together, these findings point to an urgent need for comprehensive investigation, transparent reporting of custodial deaths, and independent oversight mechanisms to ensure that all deaths in custody are accounted for, properly investigated, and that accountability measures are enforced.

5.3 Army / State Security Lethal Force

A distinct and exceptionally grave category of killings documented during the reporting period involves the use of lethal force by military or state security personnel in contexts of political unrest, communal tension, and public disorder. Such cases carry heightened legal significance because the state bears a non-derogable obligation to protect life, and any resort to lethal force must strictly comply with the principles of necessity, proportionality, precaution, and accountability under international human rights law.

HRCBM's documentation reveals that minority civilians have been among those killed during operations where security forces were deployed, and where families and eyewitnesses allege that live ammunition was used against unarmed civilians or bystanders. Two incidents — Gopalganj (July 2025) and Khagrachari–Guimara (September 2025) — stand out as representative cases illustrating this dangerous pattern of state involvement in lethal outcomes.

These incidents demand independent, transparent investigations, including full disclosure of operational orders, firearms-discharge logs, chain-of-command authorizations, medical records, and any available video or surveillance evidence.

Table 6. Representative State-Security Lethal-Force Incidents.

HRCBM Reference	Date	Location	Victim (S)	Context
HRCBM SL 11	16 July 2025	Gopalganj	Dipta Saha (25)	During large-scale political violence surrounding a rally, the victim was shot dead. Families and eyewitnesses report firing and mistreatment by security personnel deployed on site.

HRCBM Khagrachari Field Report	25–28 Sept 2025	Khagrachari–Guimara, CHT	At least five confirmed fatalities (Indigenous civilians)	Coordinated attacks on Indigenous communities accompanied by arson, displacement, and allegations of live-fire by army units against civilians.

On 16 July 2025, violence erupted in Gopalganj in the context of a large political gathering and subsequent unrest. HRCBM's registry records that Dipta Saha (25) was among the civilians shot and killed during the disturbance (**HRCBM Case Ref: SL 11**). Family members and eyewitnesses reported that security forces were actively deployed in the area at the time of the killing.

Visual material reviewed by HRCBM shows the body of Dipta Saha lying on the ground while uniformed personnel appear to restrain the body with a boot placed on the neck/throat area after the fatal incident. While HRCBM does not speculate beyond what is directly observable, the imagery raises grave concerns regarding the conduct of state security actors and the treatment of the victim following the use of lethal force.

Figure 12. Dipta Saha (25) — Gopalganj | 16 July 2025 (HRCBM SL 11).

Note: Composite image showing Dipta Saha in life (bottom left) and the aftermath of his killing during unrest in Gopalganj on 16 July 2025, with uniformed personnel positioned over and restraining his body following the fatal incident. The visual documentation raises serious concerns regarding the conduct and accountability of state security forces at the scene and underscores the urgent need for an independent, transparent investigation into the circumstances of his death.

Under international human-rights law and the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms, any use of lethal force by state agents must meet strict standards of necessity, proportionality, and accountability. Where civilians are killed in the presence of security forces, the state bears an immediate obligation to conduct a prompt, independent, and transparent investigation, including disclosure of operational orders, firearms discharge records, duty rosters, medical documentation, and all available video or surveillance material. The killing of Dipta Saha therefore represents not only a tragic loss of life, but a critical test of institutional accountability in Bangladesh.

Between 25–28 September 2025, HRCBM documented a series of coordinated attacks on Indigenous communities in the Khagrachari–Guimara region of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, involving widespread arson, destruction of homes and businesses, forced displacement, and multiple fatalities. Community members, local leaders, and HRCBM field observers reported that state security forces were present during the violence, and in several instances live ammunition was allegedly discharged, resulting in civilian deaths.

Figure 13. Aftermath of the Khagrachari–Guimara Attacks — September 2025.

Composite images documenting the aftermath of coordinated violence in the Khagrachari–Guimara region in September 2025, including a deceased civilian discovered in open terrain and severely wounded individuals receiving emergency assistance. The images form part of HRCBM's field documentation of widespread attacks on Indigenous communities, which resulted in multiple fatalities, serious injuries, destruction of homes and businesses, and mass displacement.

Ethical Note: Images presented with due regard for victim dignity and solely for the purposes of documentation, accountability, and historical record. Viewer discretion advised.

HRCBM's post-incident documentation confirms at least five fatalities, with additional injuries and extensive destruction of property. Entire villages were partially or fully burned, families were forced to flee, and Indigenous residents reported being targeted in what appeared to be a systematic campaign of terror and displacement. Survivors described scenes of chaos as armed units advanced while homes and marketplaces burned, leaving thousands temporarily homeless and traumatized.

Unlike spontaneous communal clashes, the Khagrachari–Guimara violence unfolded over several days and exhibited a high degree of coordination, including synchronized attacks across multiple locations. The presence of armed state actors during these operations — combined with community testimony and visual documentation — raises grave concerns regarding command responsibility, proportionality, and the protection of civilians.

Under international human-rights law and humanitarian principles, the state bears an immediate obligation to ensure the safety of civilian populations, particularly Indigenous peoples who are afforded additional protections under international legal frameworks. The events in Khagrachari therefore constitute not only a humanitarian catastrophe, but a profound test of Bangladesh's commitment to the right to life, minority protection, and rule of law.

HRCBM calls for an independent, international-standard investigation into the Khagrachari–Guimara violence, including full disclosure of operational orders, deployment logs, firearms discharge records, medical and forensic documentation, and the chain of command governing security operations in the region.

N.B. Further details on this incident is available at https://www.hrcbm.org/wp-new/indigenous-peoples-under-attack-in-khagrachari-homes-burned-lives-lost-in-coordinated-assaults/

5.4 Targeted Murders

During the reporting period, HRCBM documented a disturbing escalation in targeted lethal violence against religious and ethnic minorities across multiple regions of Bangladesh. These killings are characterized by:

- deliberate victim selection based on minority identity,
- high-intensity lethal methods,
- concealment or disposal of bodies, and
- a recurring pattern of weak investigation and institutional inaction.

These incidents cannot be treated as ordinary criminal acts. Taken together with concurrent patterns of mob lynching, custodial deaths, and excessive use of force by state security agencies, they constitute a coherent pattern of identity-based violence and represent early warning indicators of atrocity crimes under international prevention frameworks.

5.4.1 Modus Operandi & Pattern of Violence

HRCBM's field documentation reveals the following recurring features:

1. **Identity-Based Targeting:** All confirmed victims in this category belong to either the Hindu religious minority or Indigenous ethnic communities.

2. **Lethal and Symbolic Methods:** Killings involved throat-slashing, severe beating, body dumping in rivers, and burial under sand and debris — indicating intentional execution and dehumanization.
3. **Premeditation & Evidence Concealment:** Multiple cases show clear attempts to hide the body, delay discovery, or destroy evidence.
4. Geographic Dispersion: Incidents occurred across Chapai Nawabganj, Narsingdi, Khulna, Gazipur, and Chattogram, demonstrating national scope rather than localized conflict.
5. **Systemic Impunity:** Arrests remain absent or delayed in most cases. Several cases were only recorded through General Diaries rather than formal criminal proceedings.

Table 7. Representative Targeted Murder Cases.

HRCBM SL	Date	Victim	Location	District	Summary
1	06-Jun-2025	Sri Amin (46) – Indigenous man	Subil Tinupara, Parbatipur Union, Gomostapur	Chapainawabganj	Indigenous man went missing and was later found murdered. Community members reported intimidation before disappearance.
3	27-Jun-2025	Bablu Dutta (50) – Hindu businessman	Rajbadh Dakshinpara, Harintana	Khulna	Hindu businessman's throat was slit while returning home; killing shows clear intent and planning.
4	26-Jun-2025	Anita Karmakar (40) – Hindu woman laborer	Shitalakshya River area, Kaliganj	Gazipur	Body recovered from river. Police recorded GD-1281; circumstances strongly suggest targeted killing.
5	25-Jun-2025	Rupen Nath (45) – Hindu youth	Yugi Para, Baguan Union, Rauzan	Chittagong	Body buried under sand and branches indicating premeditation and evidence concealment.

16	7-Aug-2025	Amrit Roy (30)	Parkankra Bhangi Para Village, Gabtali	Bogura	Beaten to death after he protested the sexual harassment of his sister-in-law.
23	22-Aug-2025	Bhivuranjan Sarkar (71) – Hindu man (Sr. Journalist)	Meghna River, Munshiganj	Munshiganj	Went missing; body found in the river.
28	31-Aug-2025	Sujon Bikash Chakma (30) – Indigenous man	Teknaf, Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar	Targeted killing of Indigenous man.
29	21-Aug-2025	Bijon Kumar De (62) – Hindu Man (Minority Leader)	Hatiya, Noakhali	Noakhali	Local minority leader killed in targeted violence.
37	10-Sep-2025	Amontho Sen Tanchangya (36) - Indigenous man	Bandarban Sadar	Bandarban	Indigenous Tanchangya man abducted, killed, and his body dumped in the Sangu River, Bandarban (Targeted Killing).
58	13-Oct-2025	Subrata Chandra Das (42) – Hindu man	Subarnachar, Noakhali	Noakhali	Hindu man ambushed and throat-slit in broad daylight, Noakhali (Targeted Killing).

SL-1 (Sri Amin, 46) — Gomostapur, Chapainawabganj (Publication date: 03 June 2025):

Figure 13. Community members gather in Subail Tinupara, Parbatipur Union, Gomostapur, Chapainawabganj, following the killing of indigenous minority resident Sri Amin (46).

HRCBM reports that Sri Amin, a member of a marginalized tribal community from Subail village, went missing after leaving home on 03 June 2025 and was later found as a half-decomposed body recovered from a pond after locals detected a strong stench and alerted police. Gomostapur Police Station sent the body to the Chapainawabganj District Hospital morgue for autopsy, noting the cause of death cannot be determined until the post-mortem report is issued—underscoring urgent concerns over security failures and the need for an independent, impartial investigation.

SL-3 (Bablu Dutta, 50) — Khulna, 27 June 2025: On the evening of 27 June 2025, Hindu minority businessman Bablu Dutta (50) was brutally murdered in Rajbandh Dakshinpara under Horintana Police Station, Khulna, while returning home on his motorcycle from his business in Kaiya Bazar. According to HRCBM documentation, assailants intercepted him, forcibly took him to a secluded abandoned plot, and killed him by slitting his throat before fleeing. Police later arrested two suspects — **Suman Sheikh (45)** and **Mukti Molla (53)** — who, during interrogation, confessed to the **premeditated throat-slitting murder**. Based on their statements, police recovered two sharp machetes from a nearby canal, along with two mobile phones and a motorcycle used in the crime. Despite these arrests, police have acknowledged that the **underlying motive remains unclear** and that investigations are ongoing to determine whether additional actors were involved. HRCBM notes that the

continued absence of a clearly established motive, despite confirmed premeditation, raises serious concern about the presence of **broader, organized patterns of targeting minority communities**, a risk that requires urgent national scrutiny.

Figure 14. Two suspects arrested in connection with the premeditated killing of Hindu businessman Bablu Dutta (50) are presented by police, alongside the victim's motorcycle recovered as evidence.

SL-4 (Anita Karmakar, 40) — Gazipur, 26 June 2025: On the afternoon of 26 June 2025, the body of Hindu female worker Anita Karmakar (40) was recovered from the Shitalakkhya River in Mulgaw village under Kaliganj Upazila, Gazipur, after she had been reported missing since 24 June. Her family filed a General Diary with Polash Police Station the following day, and local residents later discovered her body floating in the river, prompting recovery by the naval police. HRCBM's documentation highlights serious concerns regarding the security of minority women workers in industrial zones, noting that the circumstances of her disappearance and death remain unexplained. Police have stated that the cause of death will be determined after the autopsy, while HRCBM has emphasized that the incident may involve **targeted violence, forced disappearance, or gender-based crime**, requiring an urgent, independent, and impartial investigation.

Figure 15. Local residents and responders are seen at the bank of the Shitalakkhya River in Kaliganj, Gazipur, as the body of Hindu female worker Anita Karmakar (40) is recovered after she was reported missing for two days.

SL-5 (Rupen Nath, 37) — Rauzan, Chattogram, 25 June 2025: On the morning of 25 June 2025, the body of Hindu youth Rupen Nath (37) was recovered from the bank of the Karnaphuli River in Jugi Para, Baguan Union, Rauzan, Chattogram. Local residents discovered the body partially buried under sand and covered with tree leaves, with a rope lying nearby — circumstances that, according to HRCBM documentation and eyewitness accounts, strongly indicate possible forced or premeditated killing. Although the victim was reported to have mental health challenges, HRCBM emphasizes that this does not diminish the seriousness of the incident, as the condition and positioning of the body suggest intentional harm. Police have stated that an investigation is ongoing, while HRCBM has expressed grave concern that the case may reflect targeted violence against a minority youth, requiring swift, transparent, and impartial investigation to prevent further harm.

Figure 16. The body of Rupen Nath (37), a Hindu minority youth, was discovered on the bank of the Karnaphuli River with his head buried under sand and his body partially concealed beneath leaves, while a rope lay nearby. The image at right shows Rupen Nath during his lifetime. The circumstances of his death have raised serious concerns about targeted violence, concealment of evidence, and the security of minority communities in the region.

SL-18 — Killing of Sri Amrito Roy (Bogura, 7 August 2025): This case reflects a grave escalation of violence within minority communities. A Hindu housewife was subjected to an attempted sexual assault inside her home; when her family protested and intervened, Sri Amrito Roy was brutally assaulted by the perpetrators and died from his injuries. While the victim of the murder was male, the incident is inseparably connected to gender-based violence against a minority woman and demonstrates how resistance to such abuse now triggers lethal retaliation. HRCBM assesses that this pattern reinforces growing insecurity for minority women and the dangerous normalization of violence used to silence families who attempt to protect them.

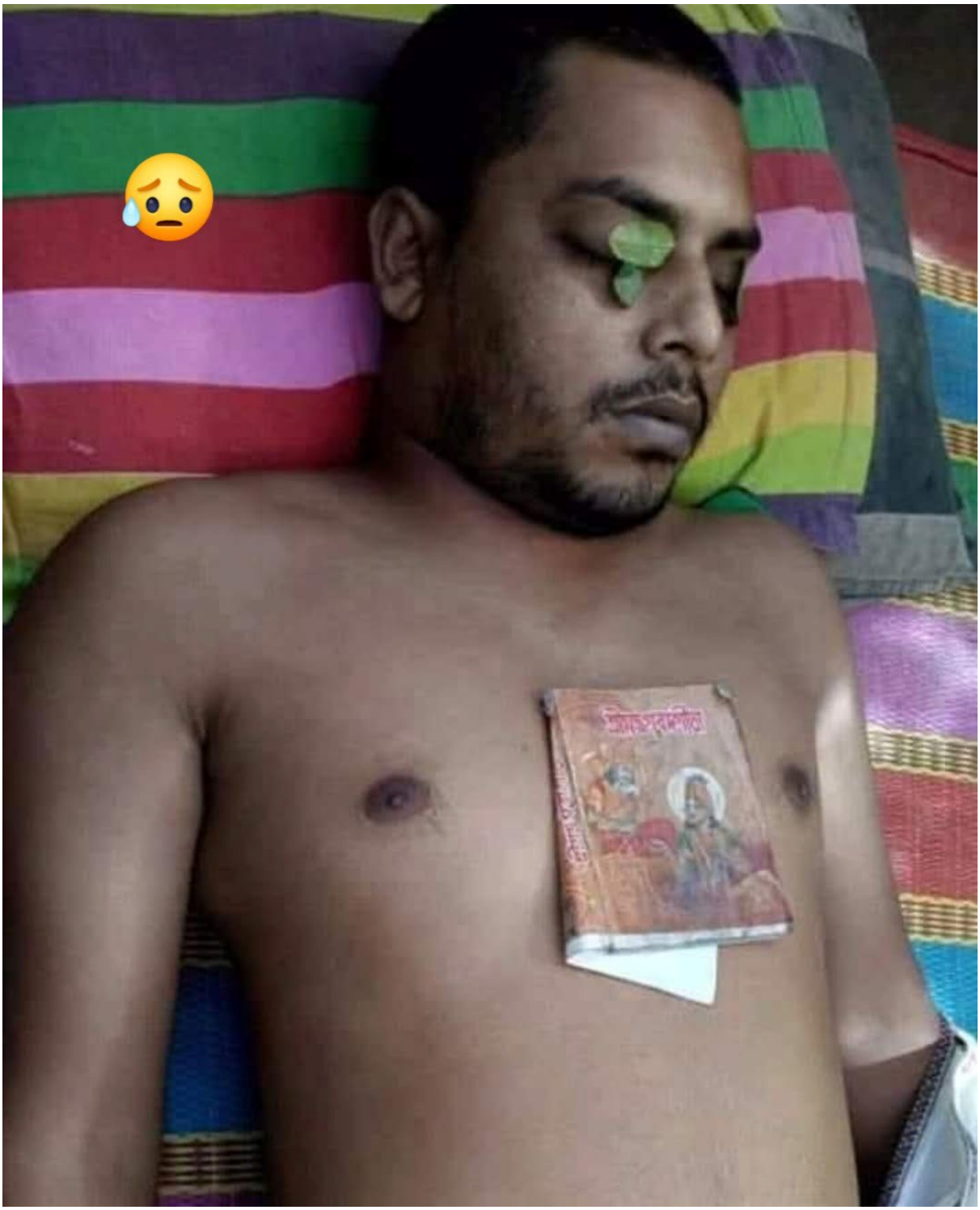

Figure 17. The body of Sri Amrito Roy, a Hindu minority youth from Par Kakra Vangirpára village in Gabtoli, Bogura, after he succumbed to fatal injuries sustained while protesting the attempted sexual assault of his sister-in-law.

HRCBM documents this killing as a grave human-rights violation reflecting escalating violence, insecurity, and impunity affecting minority families and women.

SL-23 — Death of Senior Journalist Bibhuranjan Sarkar (Dhaka–Munshiganj, August 2025): HRCBM's documentation indicates that the death of senior journalist Bibhuranjan Sarkar (71) cannot be responsibly dismissed as an ordinary or non-targeted incident. He went missing after leaving home for work, left his mobile phone behind, never reached his office, and was later found dead in the Meghna River—facts that collectively point to an abnormal disappearance-to-death trajectory requiring a criminal lens. While police appear to frame the matter as inconclusive and avoid characterizing it as targeted, the surrounding indicators—including the publication of his "Last Writing of Life" letter and the absence of any disclosed investigative breakthrough—make the case highly suspicious and consistent with patterns of intimidation, pressure, or planned harm, particularly given his role as a journalist and his identity as a Hindu minority.

Figure18. Bibhuranjan Sarkar (August 2025): (left) The body of senior journalist Bibhuranjan Sarkar (71) recovered from the Meghna River, Munshiganj, on 8 August 2025, one day after his disappearance from Dhaka. (right) Bibhuranjan Sarkar in life, Senior Assistant Editor of Dainik Ajker Patrika. The circumstances of his death raise serious concerns over journalist safety and minority protection.

SL28 — Sujan Bikash Chakma (30) — Teknaf, Cox's Bazar: Sujan Bikash Chakma (30), an indigenous Chakma youth from Jurachhari, Rangamati, was reported missing from Saturday, and his family filed a missing diary with Jurachhari Police Station. On Sunday night around 10:30 PM, he was brought in critical condition from an unknown location to Shapla Chattar, Teknaf, by a local vehicle driver and rushed to hospital, where he died at approximately 11:30 PM after suffering fatal stab injuries. Eyewitnesses reported that following the stabbing, attempts were made to stitch his wounds, and while dying, Sujan indicated that several persons had been present at the scene. HRCBM assesses that the sequence of disappearance, concealed attack location, coordinated presence of multiple individuals, and post-attack manipulation of evidence strongly indicates a **premeditated and targeted killing** of a minority youth. Police have stated that the investigation remains at a preliminary stage and no suspect has yet been identified.

Figure 19. Sujan Bikash Chakma, an indigenous Chakma youth from Jurachhari, Rangamati, whose death in Teknaf has been documented by HRCBM as a targeted killing of a minority community member.

SL29 - Bijon Kumar De (62) — Ashashuni, Satkhira: The body of Bijon Kumar De (62), a Hindu minority leader of Budhata Union, was recovered on Wednesday morning near the Paubor embankment beside Kunduria Chumuria village in Ashashuni, Satkhira. He had left for Paithali market at 5:00 PM the previous day and did not return home; his mobile phone was later found switched off. Police report clear injury marks on both legs and have preliminarily concluded that he was murdered, with the family preparing to file a case. HRCBM notes that the killing of a senior local minority leader under such circumstances reflects serious security failures and a heightened risk of targeted violence against minority leadership in the region.

Figure 20. The body of Hindu minority leader Bijon Kumar De found near the Paubor embankment in Ashashuni, Satkhira, where police have preliminarily concluded he was murdered.

SL37 - Aman Sen Tanchangya (36) — Bandarban: The half-decomposed body of Aman Sen Tanchangya (36), a member of the indigenous Tanchangya community and a tom-tom driver from Rowangchhari, was recovered from the Sangu River in the Kachingghata area of Bandarban on 16 September. He had been missing since the night of 15 September, and his family began searching for him the following morning. At the suspected crime scene behind the residence of a local UP member, clear evidence of violence was found, including bloodstains, visible drag marks toward a canal, Aman's bag, and his mobile phone, strongly indicating forcible abduction. His mother stated that the drag marks on the sandbank made it evident to her that her son had been killed and his body disposed of in the river, a conclusion reinforced by the discovery of severe head injuries on the body. HRCBM assesses that the sequence of abduction, assault, body concealment, and disposal constitutes a premeditated and targeted killing of an indigenous minority man, reflecting the growing pattern of violence and insecurity faced by hill and indigenous communities in Bangladesh.

Figure 21. Inset: Aman Sen Tanchangya in life. Background: Search and recovery operations along the Sangu River in Bandarban, where his body was found after being abducted and murdered — documented by HRCBM as a targeted killing of an indigenous community member.

SL58 - Subrata Chandra Das (42) — Subarnachar, Noakhali: On 11 October 2025, Subrata Chandra Das (42), a Hindu minority civilian, was brutally attacked and murdered in broad daylight in front of Palowan Bari, Char Jabli, Subarnachar, while riding his motorcycle to pick up his wife from work. A group of assailants arrived in a CNG auto-rickshaw, struck him repeatedly on the head, and slit his throat, killing him on the spot. His motorcycle was left untouched at the scene, eliminating robbery as a motive and strongly indicating that the victim himself was the intended target. HRCBM assesses the execution-style killing, the coordinated attack, and the absence of alternative motive as clear indicators of a premeditated targeted killing of a minority community member. Police have recovered the body and initiated an investigation, but no suspects have yet been identified.

Figure 22. The bloodied body of Subrata Chandra Das, a Hindu civilian brutally executed in a targeted attack in Subarnachar, Noakhali, on 11 October 2025.

6.0 Legal Assessment

Bangladesh's domestic legal framework imposes clear and non-derogable obligations on the state to protect life, investigate violent crime, and ensure accountability. Under the Code of Criminal Procedure (1898), police are required to register First Information Reports (FIRs) without delay for cognizable offenses, initiate prompt investigations, and pursue prosecution where evidence exists. However, the evidence documented in this report demonstrates a persistent pattern of non-compliance with these statutory duties in cases involving minority victims.

Across numerous incidents, families reported police reluctance or refusal to register FIRs, delayed investigations, minimal arrest activity, and procedural stalling. These failures are not isolated administrative lapses but constitute systemic breakdowns in law enforcement performance, creating a climate of effective immunity for perpetrators. Such institutional negligence violates both domestic legal standards and the constitutional obligation to ensure equal protection of law for all citizens.

6.1 International Human-Rights Framework

Bangladesh is bound by core international human-rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which guarantees the right to life, equal protection, and non-discrimination. Under established jurisprudence, states have a duty of due diligence to prevent foreseeable harm, protect vulnerable populations, investigate violations, and punish perpetrators.

The killings documented in this report demonstrate repeated failure across all four components of this duty:
prevention, protection, investigation, and accountability.
The systematic nature of these failures constitutes a breach of Bangladesh's international legal obligations.

6.2 Atrocity Risk & Legal Thresholds

While this report does not assert the legal conclusion of genocide or crimes against humanity, the documented patterns exhibit indicators consistent with early-stage atrocity crimes, including:

- Identity-based victim selection
- Systematic impunity
- Institutional collapse of protective mechanisms
- Recurrent use of rumor-based and symbolic violence
- Widespread fear, displacement, and social destabilization

These indicators meet recognized international atrocity-risk thresholds used by the United Nations and other early-warning frameworks.

6.3 State Responsibility: Duty to Protect & Impunity

When a state consistently fails to protect specific populations and tolerates persistent violence through inaction, the resulting impunity itself becomes a form of state responsibility. The environment documented in this report demonstrates that impunity is no longer episodic but structural, placing the state in breach of its obligations under both domestic and international law.

7.0 Recommendations

The findings of this report demonstrate a sustained pattern of targeted killings, systemic investigative failure, and escalating insecurity for religious and ethnic minorities in Bangladesh. These conditions are not the product of isolated criminal acts, but of institutional breakdowns that require coordinated legal, administrative, and international response.

Accordingly, the following recommendations are structured by responsible stakeholder groups to ensure clarity of obligation, accountability of implementation, and measurable impact. They are designed to strengthen the rule of law, restore public trust in state institutions, protect vulnerable populations, and prevent the recurrence of violence. Each set of recommendations reflects the urgency of the documented human-rights violations and the necessity of immediate, concrete action.

7.1 Government of Bangladesh

- Establish independent national inquiry commissions for the documented killings
- Mandate centralized monitoring of FIR registration and prosecution outcomes
- Deploy protective mechanisms in high-risk districts

7.2 Police & Prosecutorial Services

- Enforce mandatory FIR registration for homicide cases
- Create special investigation units for minority-related crimes
- Ensure witness protection programs and victim-family safeguards

7.3 Judiciary & NHRC

- Prioritize judicial review of stalled homicide cases
- Strengthen oversight of law-enforcement conduct
- Publish transparent accountability metrics

7.4 International Actors (UN, EU, US State, UK FCDO, Commonwealth)

- Activate diplomatic engagement and public reporting mechanisms
- Support independent forensic and legal reviews
- Apply targeted sanctions and conditionality where appropriate

7.5 Media & Digital Platforms

- Establish rapid debunking networks to counter rumor-driven violence
- Enforce platform accountability for misinformation that incites killings

7.6 Transitional Justice & Accountability Pathway (HRCBM Framework)

To ensure durable prevention and non-recurrence, HRCBM proposes a transitional justice and accountability framework as a civil-society resource aligned with international standards and designed to complement criminal justice processes. The framework is victim-centered and seeks to address both individual perpetrators and the systemic enabling conditions—impunity, investigative failure, and institutional discrimination—that allow targeted violence to persist.

HRCBM's framework is structured around five mutually reinforcing pillars: **(1) Truth and Documentation** through standardized case registries and evidence preservation; **(2) Accountability** through independent investigations, prosecutorial capacity-building, and witness protection; **(3) Reparations and Rehabilitation** for affected families, including psychosocial support and livelihood stabilization; **(4) Institutional Reform** focused on policing duties (FIR registration, timely investigation, and oversight) and the creation of specialized minority-protection mechanisms; and **(5) Guarantees of Non-Recurrence**, including early-warning systems for rumor-driven violence, community protection protocols, and public education measures.

HRCBM invites the Government of Bangladesh, the National Human Rights Commission, and international partners (UN, EU, US, UK, Commonwealth) to engage with this framework through a transparent, time-bound implementation roadmap with measurable indicators, independent monitoring, and periodic public reporting.

8.0 HRCBM Actions & Contact Channel

The Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) operates as a documentation, legal advocacy, and accountability-focused civil society organization. HRCBM does not provide direct emergency responses to victims. Its core functions include independent documentation of human-rights violations, legal case development, strategic advocacy, and coordination with partner organizations that deliver humanitarian and financial assistance.

8.1 Actions Undertaken by HRCBM

Since the onset of the documented violence, HRCBM has undertaken the following actions:

- **Case Documentation & Evidence Preservation**
  Collection of victim testimonies, photographic evidence, medical records, police documentation, and witness statements; development of standardized case files and master registries.
- **Legal Assistance & Case Support**
  Support to victims' families in filing FIRs, monitoring investigations, pursuing judicial remedies, and engaging oversight bodies including the NHRC and relevant UN mechanisms.
- **Advocacy & International Engagement**
  Submissions to UN Special Procedures, diplomatic missions, and international human-rights institutions; ongoing briefings to media and civil society networks.
- **Referral & Partner Coordination**
  HRCBM refers victims and families to vetted humanitarian and social-service partner organizations for financial assistance, psychosocial support, medical aid, and emergency relief.
- **Monitoring of Investigations & Accountability**
  Tracking of police responses, prosecutorial progress, and judicial proceedings; publication of periodic accountability assessments.

8.2 Victim Support Pathway

HRCBM's victim-support model is based on **legal empowerment and referral coordination**:

1. **Intake & Documentation** – secure case intake and evidence verification
2. **Legal Pathway Activation** – FIR filing support, court engagement, oversight mechanisms
3. **Partner Referral** – connection to humanitarian partners for financial, medical, and psychosocial assistance
4. **Follow-up & Monitoring** – continuous case tracking and protection advocacy

8.3 Safe Reporting & Witness Contact Channel

HRCBM maintains secure reporting channels for victims, families, witnesses, and community observers:

- Confidential case intake (encrypted digital submission)
- Secure document transmission
- Witness protection coordination with partner legal organizations
- Periodic status updates to complainants

All sensitive information is handled under strict confidentiality and data-protection protocols.